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#### 03500.017948

### PATENT APPLICATION

FEB 0 9 7006 PE	IN THE UNITED STATES PAT	ENT	AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Applica	tion of:	)	
		:	Examiner: Patrick H. Mackey
Kenichi HAY	'ASHI, et al.	)	
		:	Group Art Unit: 3651
Application N	No.: 10/789,985	)	
		:	
Filed: March	2, 2004	)	
		:	
For: SHEET	PROCESSING APPARATUS	)	February 9, 2006
AND IN	MAGE FORMING APPARATUS	:	
INCLU	DING THE SHEET PROCESSIN	G)	

## Mail Stop Amendment

**APPARATUS** 

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the Japanese document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the document is also enclosed.

The concise explanation of relevance of the Japanese document is found in the English Abstract attached thereto and in the enclosed computer-generated English language translation thereof.

02/10/2006 HALI11 00000080 10789985

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Applicants further submit the following comments on this document.

In the sheet processing apparatus of Japanese Document No. 2003-081517, all of sheets which should be held in the sheet holding portion upstream of the conveying direction are understood to be switched back, and the sheet processing apparatus is understood to hold the sheets by making the upstream end portion abut with the abutting portion, and further is understood to discharge the above-mentioned held sheets under the above-mentioned alignment state.

In contrast, the stored sheets are discharged from the sheet holding portion when a downstream edge in the conveying or discharging direction of a sheet to be supplied last has preceded the downstream edges in the conveying or discharging direction of the sheets held in the sheet holding portion by a predetermined amount, as recited in Claims 1 and 14.

By this arrangement, the present invention can reduce the sheet conveying time, and can improve the sheet processing efficiency and the alignment ability after the held sheets are discharged to the processing tray or sheet stacking means.

# FORMAL MATTERS

Enclosed is a check for the required fee of \$180.00 for this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) and § 1.17(p). Please charge any additional fee required, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned, indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary M. Jacobs

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017948	Ē	APPLICATION NO 10/789,985				
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE . PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)		APPLICANT Kenichi HAYASHI et al.						
(Use several sheets if necessary)  Date submitted to PTO: February 9, 2006			FILING DATE March 2, 2004  U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS	9 2006				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
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		FC	PREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS	T				
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT		
	2003-081517 A	03/19/2003	Japan			Abstract and translation		
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
EXAMINER DATE CONSIDERED								
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy								

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<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include cop of this form with next communication to applicant.